

20073-21-159

THE DUNEDIN HOME BIRTH ASSOCIATION
BOX 6124, DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND

25 March.

Dear Barbara,

The big news of the day is that we may finally have a Doctor.

As you know last year we raised over \$1000 primarily to buy equipment. Why did we raise it? Well most of the Drs we approached would not consider Homebirths because they argued "Safety of the Baby". We heard constantly... "if there were back up services"... "emergency equipment". So we thought that purchasing such as a resuscitator would show the Drs that we were making some positive steps towards making Homebirths a safe alternative. However once it was known that we were seeking advice on the type of equipment we should get the reasons against shifted. On the whole the reasons why they are against homebirths is purely political. The O.G.s from the hospital feel very threatened that women do not need their specialist care so have effectively put pressure on the G.P. to refuse to become involved in Homebirths. Although I know no details a questionnaire of some sort was sent to G.P.s by the O.G.s. One Dr who is sympathetic to our cause wrote at length about Homebirths in the questionnaire has just agreed to attend another. However he would like some equipment to show his colleagues that he is not being irresponsible and that he is taking a positive step towards showing that homebirths are here to stay. He still maintains that he does not want to be known as a Home Birth Doctor because I think he feels he will be deluged with pregnant women wanting Homebirths.

at the moment there seems to be a lull in parents who are wanting their babies born at home that we know of. We hope this particular Dr will continue to agree to attend homebirths in the future. He has stuck his neck out and we feel he needs support so we will be purchasing some equipment he requests.

I will point out that we agree with you & Joan Donley about fetal heart monitors etc. We also appreciate that the equipment we will be buying will mainly serve to bolster confidence.

With almost having a Dr maybe finding a midwife will be made easier.

We feel it is a good idea to co-ordinate all the groups so that we become a National as well as regional force. There are issues and research projects that we as a small group cannot cover. We would all benefit from it.

As you can see our newsletter for this month is made up of mainly your newsletter.

We have also finally got a Dr (senior lecturer of Psychological medicine) to address our April meeting. She has recently become a Mum and is married to one of the neonatalists at Queen Mary. She had a hospital birth of course, yet she is interested to know more about us and appears to have an open mind. Our topic will be maternal/infant bonding. We hope to generate discussion and thought on the role birthing plays on Bonding. Of course we feel the benefits of being at home far outweigh the hospital in this respect. Needless to say regardless of home or hospital Bonding is important.

Yours sincerely,
Hazel Adcock